

THE CYCLONE.

DEATH AND DESTITUTION IN MINNEAPOLIS.

ST. CLOUD COMPLETELY WRECKED.

SOONER REMEMBERING A CONFLUENCE IN ITS FURY.

THE AIR FILLED WITH FLYING DEBRIS.

AN APPALLING AND GRATEFUL SCENE.

TERIBLE SWEEP AT SAUK RAPIDS.

The Dead and the Wounded—Freight-Guns Discharged—The Desolation of the People.

(By telegraph to the Dispatch.)

SAK CLOUD, MINN., April 15.—A few minutes after 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon the skies became overcast with a dark cloud, and a great black mass rose over the hills southwest of the city, and came with terrible velocity towards the western outskirts, in a direct line for the Minnesota freight-yards. The clouds hung low and rolled over and over like smoke over a battlefield, and were accompanied by a loud roaring and crackling sound that resembled a conflagration in fury. The cloud was funnel-shaped, and the point dragged along the ground like the tail of a huge aerial beast, lashing everything that came in its path into atoms. The citizens had hardly time to flee to their cellars and seek other points of refuge before the whirlwind was on them, and it was filled with flying boards, shingles, bricks, and other articles that was strewn over the country and piled in promiscuous heaps. It came from the southwest and moved in a northeasterly direction until it reached the river, where it was deflected, was diverted, and followed the river banks until it reached Sauk Rapids, where it diverged to the left, passing directly through the centre of that town. The unwise confusion prevailed; women and children fled from their houses and rushed aimlessly about in the midst of the dark cloud and dust and the avalanche of boards and bricks. Men lost their presence of mind and stood in silence and inactivity in the presence of the wind demon. It was hardly noticed before it was on the city in all its fury, and the people were not warned of their danger before it was upon them, and they fell like grain stalks before the scythe's stroke.

SAK CLOUD DISASTER.

The portion of St. Cloud struck by the cyclone was the southwestern, and was the residence portion occupied by the laboring class of people, a majority of them being foreigners employed on the railroads. Their dwellings were light-built houses and became at once prey to the monster that had so voraciously pounced upon them. They were like crack-wheels in the grasp of the whirlwind, and were picked up and tossed in the air and rent into a thousand pieces. The earth was ploughed up in the line of the cyclone, and the paths over which it passed to the width of nearly a quarter of a mile look as though it had been upheaved by a terrible volcanic eruption. It had hardly begun its terrible work before it was finished, and the scene that greeted the eyes of those who had escaped in fury was one that caused the stoutest heart to stagger. The cries and shrieks of the wounded rent the air, and the ground was covered with the bodies of the dead. Among them were swarthy men, weak women, and weaker children. The scene almost at a man rushed in the demolished districts, and summoning physicians began their work of rescuing those who were still living from beneath the ruins of dirt and the fallen buildings. Several were promptly telegraphed to for medical help, and she immediately responded by sending a dozen physicians and surgeons by special train, but it was late in the evening when they arrived on the scene. St. Paul and Minneapolis were also appealed to, and a special car was sent out with twenty-three surgeons and physicians for the scene of the disaster. After dark the scene was a ghastly one. Rain poured down in torrents, and hundreds of men wandered over the ground, many carrying lanterns, searching for bodies among the ruins. The hotel lobbies were filled with excited scenes, many of whom you suspected that some portion of their families or their friends had fallen victims to the terrible disaster. Women, seemingly unconscious of the ran that was falling, were in the streets, and, ignoring the guitars and tumult streams, gazed about, sobbing and moaning in their grief.

SAK CLOUD DISASTER.

The cyclone struck the city shortly after 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, and in just six minutes the best portion of the town was in ruins. Not a single business-house was left standing on Main street, and many remained were demolished. The wind came from the southwest and swept everything before it for about the width of four blocks. The sun-cloud was as black as night with a bright streak of light over either side. The court-houses are now a heap of ruins and several of the county offices were killed. The Union schoolhouse, Presbyterian and Congregational churches, post-office, four-mail, and a large machine-shop were all converted into kindling wood in less time than it takes to tell it. What was the centre of the town is now covered with all sorts of broken timber, doors, pieces of furniture, etc. Only the City Hotel remains intact. The Northern Pacific depot was literally blown away and a large number of freight-cars overturned upon the tracks. At the present time twenty-two dead bodies have been recovered from the ruins, and a large number of people are injured. The bodies are laid out in the nearest houses left standing, and several half-demolished buildings are made to answer the purpose of a morgue. The spectacle is a sad one, the living being not only deprived of their friends, but of all their earthly possessions at the same time. The total loss of property is not less than three hundred thousand dollars, without a dollar of cyclone insurance. The town is well-nigh ruined. The living are caring for the wounded as well as possible, and physicians from St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Benicia are in attendance.

NOT EXAGGERATED.

SAK CLOUD, MINN., April 15.—The reports of the cyclone at St. Cloud, Sauk Rapids, Eye Station, and other points in the vicinity last night and early this morning were not exaggerated. At 3 o'clock this morning in the places named there were 40 dead and nearly 200 injured, with many still missing, whose bodies will probably be recovered to-night. Just enough houses are left in Sauk Rapids to form a fringe around the village limits. The debris is not piled in heaps, but scattered far and wide. A sign reads "Sak Rapids"—on Minnepolis a basketful of books were found in Eye Station, fifteen miles dis-

tant. This shows the terrible power of the storm.

No reports have yet been received from the outlying districts, where it is believed a great destruction of property and loss of life have been wrought.

The storm extended from Jamestown, Dak., through Minnesota and into Wisconsin, though its most disastrous effects are to be found in the three places first named.

THE SITUATION AT ST. CLOUD YESTERDAY.

St. Cloud, Minn., April 15.—On the arrival of the train yesterday with the surgeon's work was at once begun to relieve the wounded. Eighteen dead were taken to the Little-Giant engine-house and stretched out on the floor, while the wounded were sent to St. Benedict Catholic hospital, where they were promptly cared for by a corps of physicians and nurses, among whom were numerous lady residents who had volunteered their services. There were 54 wounded in the hospital last night, besides a large number that were taken to private residences. To-day there are about 45; two having died and the others having been removed. The bodies at the engine-house were neatly dressed to-day and placed in coffins. The funeral will probably take place to-morrow.

THE WORKERS OF THE SCENE.

SAKE RAPIDS, MINN., April 15.—As the clouds passed over Burlington, Mass., in the track of the storm new deaths were discovered, and the maimed are being brought in for treatment. No one can depict the horrors of the scene. The final muster of casualties will exceed well the list of deaths to one hundred.

THE HORROR OF THE SCENE.

SAKE RAPIDS, MINN., April 15.—A destructive cyclone passed over Burlington, Mass., last evening. The railway station was blown to atoms and great damage done in the town and in the surrounding country. Two boys living near town were killed, and many other persons were seriously injured. There was a heavy thunder-storm at Louisville, Ky., at 11 o'clock this morning. Fred Flye and Robert Stewart were struck by lightning at the saw-mill of the Free-mill Manufacturing Company. Stewart was instantly killed.

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